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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4207

September 9, 2009

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Reaffirming the Legislative and Oversight Authority of Congress

Cosponsor the "Czar" Concurrent Resolution

Dear Colleague:

In the past few months, American citizens expressed serious concerns about the use of "czars" by the current Administration. Most of these concerns focused on the qualifications of the appointees and their accountability to the American people.

When the President is attempting to solve a complex problem, sometimes a person is necessary to coordinate specific tasks between agencies to address the variety of issues involved. The President appoints one of his advisors to this task, and becomes a "czar."


Before 2001, Presidents appointed very few "czars." But now, the number of appointees has escalated to well over thirty, and Americans do not see adequate transparency and accountability for these positions.

Therefore, I am introducing a concurrent resolution to addresses these concerns. The Resolution explicitly maintains the separation of powers between Congress and the Executive Branch and would apply to present and future Presidents.

The resolution affirms the President's authority and constitutional privilege to appoint personnel to the Executive Office of the President and affirms Congress's legislative and oversight authority over the Executive Branch. It requests the President report to Congress on the responsibilities and qualifications of appointed "czars" in a manner similar to nominees who state their qualifications and disclose their associations as part of the Senate confirmation process. My resolution further requests that the President certify that they will not act outside their legal authority.

This resolution is a step towards promoting more accountability and transparency of officials that run the Federal government. Please contact me or have your staff contact Rodney Bacigalupo at rodney.bacigalupo@mail.house.gov or at (5-2811) for further information or to add your name as a cosponsor. Please respond by Monday, September 14 to be an original cosponsor.

Sincerely,


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress